

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic camera comprising a camera device and a processor, wherein
said camera device comprises a first generation means for generating a
compressed image signal based on a photographed image signal, and a second generation
5 means for generating a decompressed image signal based on the compressed image signal
generated by said first generation means, and

10 said processor comprises a first activation means for activating said first
generation means in response to a photographing instruction, a second activation means
for activating said second generation means in response to completion of a generation
process by said first generation means, and an output means for outputting to a monitor
the decompressed image signal generated by said second generation means.

15 2. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein

15 said processor further comprises a storage means for temporarily storing in a
memory the compressed image signal generated by said first generation means, and a
recording means for recording on a recording medium the compressed image signal
stored in said memory in response to a recording instruction.

20 3. An electronic camera according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

20 said first generation means includes a compression means for compressing said
photographed image signal in a specific order; and

25 said camera device further comprises an image sensor in which a plurality of
light-receiving elements for generating electric charges corresponding to an optical
image of an object are formed, and a reading means for reading the electric charges
generated by said plurality of light-receiving elements in an order correlating with said
specific order.

25 4. An electronic camera according to claim 3, wherein

5 said compression means performs compression in units of a first pixel block; and
10 said reading means performs reading in units of a second pixel block correlating
15 with said first pixel blocks.

5. An electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein

10 said camera device further comprises a color filter arranged on a front surface of
15 said image sensor and having a plurality of colors of color elements, and a color
20 separation means for subjecting to color separation electric charge signals each of which
25 has only color information of one of said plurality of colors, and
30 said second pixel block is larger than said first pixel block, and two second pixel
35 blocks adjacent to each other are partly overlapping.

6. An electronic camera according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein

15 said image sensor is a CMOS type.

7. An electronic camera according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein

15 said second generation means includes a decompression means for subjecting said
10 compressed image signal to a decompression process, and a resolution reduction means
15 for reducing a resolution of the image signal decompressed by said decompression means
20 to generate said decompressed image signal.

8. An electronic camera according to any one of claims 3 to 7, wherein

15 said compression means performs compression in a lossy format.

9. An electronic camera according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein

15 said photographed image signal is a still image signal.